

In re application of: Robert Manuel Carmichael  
Serial No. 09/730,116  
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**REMARKS**

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated July 13, 2005, which supplements Applicant's previously filed Amendment. In the July 13<sup>th</sup> Action, the Examiner is requiring Applicant to address the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 14 and 21 in view of Anderson. Claims 14 and 21 have been amended. Claims 1-21 remain pending in the application. No new matter has been inserted. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection.

Applicant incorporates by reference all of its previous arguments made regarding the Anderson patent. Additionally, claims 14 and 21 have been amended to state that the sections of the side release buckle are disconnected by the user holding and operating the buckle. Anderson also does not disclose a side release buckle. Additionally, even if clamp 84 could be considered a side release buckle, it is clear that clamp 84 is not held and operated by the user when releasing the ballast.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses all of the Examiner's rejections contained in the December 1, 2004 Office Action and the Section 102(b) rejection referenced in the July 13, 2005 Office Action. Applicant has completely responded to the Office Action dated July 13, 2005. Favorable action is respectfully requested. Any additional charges, including Extensions of Time, please bill our Deposit Account No. 503180.

Respectfully submitted,



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